

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 20, 2007 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claim 15 has been amended. No new subject matter has been added. Claims 1-15 and 17-24 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 15, 17-20, 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bremer et al. (U.S. Publication 2004/0042510 A1) in view of Pelegris (U.S. Patent 5,410,443). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, but have amended claim 15 to advance this application to allowance.

In the Response to Arguments section of the Office Action, the Examiner kindly indicates that claim 15 requires clarification as to how the recited adapter communicates with the cross connect block. Claim 15 has been amended correspondingly to recite adapter limitations similar to those of allowed claims 1 and 4. Applicants respectfully submit that the clarifying amendments made to claim 15 distinguish the cited art, and that independent claim 15, and dependent claims 17-20, 23, and 24 are now in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-14, 21 and 22 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification.

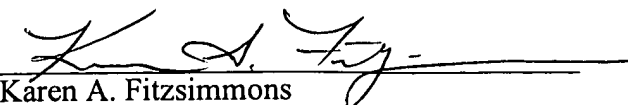
SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1-15 and 17-24) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

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